



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
2725 Montlake Blvd. East  
Seattle, WA 98112

December 22, 2003

TO: Columbia River Basin State and Tribal Co-Managers

FROM: Usha Varanasi, Ph.D., Director, Northwest Fisheries Science Center

NOAA Fisheries, in cooperation with the other federal agencies, States and Tribes, is in the process of revising the 2000 Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion in response to the June 2003 remand. In order that this revision may consider the most current scientific information, the NOAA Fisheries' Regional Office requested the Northwest Fisheries Science Center provide an update of the most recent data and information on impacts of the FCRPS on ESA-listed salmonids in the Columbia River Basin and a review of the relative fitness of hatchery and natural-origin salmon. There are four documents. Two are updates of "white papers" developed in 2000 (the earlier flow and transport papers are combined into one of the papers), and two are new.

The topics of the Technical Memoranda are:

- Passage of Juvenile and Adult Salmonids Past Columbia and Snake River Dams.
- Effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on Salmon Populations.
- The Role of the Estuary in the Recovery of Columbia Basin Salmon.
- A Review of the Relative Fitness of Hatchery and Natural Salmon.

In order to get your input, we are providing you with preliminary drafts of all four documents. These drafts are "working drafts" and are our initial assessments. Because they are early drafts you will find that at times conclusions have not yet been drawn.

The draft Technical Memoranda are posted on the biological opinion remand website at [http://www.salmonrecovery.gov/R\\_Analysis.shtml](http://www.salmonrecovery.gov/R_Analysis.shtml). We seek your comments on the drafts and any additional information for consideration for inclusion in the Technical Memoranda. Please send your comments by February 1, 2004 to:

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Thank you in advance for your assistance in facilitating the remand process by reviewing and commenting on the draft Technical Memoranda.

cc: Northwest Power and Conservation Council and Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority

